AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for accessing data in a server-based business database system using an external program on a client system, the method comprising:

        selecting a company object from a hierarchy of objects stored on the client system;

        instantiating the company object on the client system as an instance of a company class conforming to a component object model standard to access data in the server-based business database system;

        setting at least one property of the instantiated company object on the client system with data from the client system; and thereafter

        invoking a connect method within said company object, said connect method opening a software connection to said business database.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said setting a server property of said company object to a server name comprises setting said server property to an input server name.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said setting a server property of said company object to a server name comprises setting said server property to a default server name from the company object, if the server property is not set.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said invoking a connect method within said company object, said connect method opening a software connection to said business

database comprises connecting an external data warehouse management system to said business database.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing said business database using business objects from said company object.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business database.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises updating said business database.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises retrieving data from said business database.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises manipulating data from said business database.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

        invoking a disconnect method within said company object to close said software connection to said business database.

11.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of

executable instructions to perform a method for accessing a server-based business database

system from a client system comprising:

        selecting a company object from a hierarchy of objects stored on the client system;

        instantiating the company object on the client system as an instance of a company class

conforming to a component object model standard to access data in the server-based business

database system;

        setting at least one property of the instantiated company object on the client system with

data from the client system; and thereafter

        invoking a connect method within said company object, said connect method opening a

software connection to said business database.

12.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein setting a

server property of said company object to a server name comprises setting said server property to

an input server name.

13.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein setting a

server property of said company object to a server name comprises setting said server property to

a default server name from the company object, if the server property is not set.

14.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said invoking

a connect method within said company object, said connect method opening a software

connection to said business database comprises connecting an external data warehouse

management system to said business database.

15.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising

accessing said business database using business objects from said company object.

16.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein said business

objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business database.

17.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein said

accessing said business database using said business objects comprises updating said business

database.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein said

accessing said business database using said business objects comprises retrieving data from said

business database.

19.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein said

accessing said business database using said business objects comprises manipulating data from

said business database.

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising:

invoking a disconnect method within said company object to close said software

connection to said business database.

21-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) A data processing system comprising:

a hierarchy of objects stored on a client system;

means for instantiating a company object on the client system, selected from the

hierarchy of objects, as an instance of a company class conforming to a component object model

standard to access data in a server-based business database;

means for setting at least one property of the instantiated company object on the client

system with data from the client system; and

means for invoking a connect method within said company object, said connect method

opening a software connection to said business database.

36. (Original) The data processing system of claim 35 further comprising:

means for accessing said business database using business objects from said company

object.

37.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 36 wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business database.

38.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 36 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises updating said business database.

39.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 36 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises retrieving data from said business database.

40.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 36 wherein said accessing said business database using said business objects comprises manipulating data from said business database.

41.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 35 wherein said method further comprises:

        invoking a disconnect method within said company object to close said software connection to said business database.

42.   (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

        a processing component;

        a communication component coupled to said processing component;

        a display component coupled to said processing component; and

        an input device coupled to said processing component;

said processing component including a machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of executable instructions to perform a method including:

selecting a company object from a hierarchy of objects stored on the computer system;

instantiating the company object on said computer system as an instance of a company class conforming to a component object model standard to access data in a server-based business database;

setting at least one property of the instantiated company object on said computer system with data from the computer system; and thereafter

invoking a connect method within said company object, said connect method opening a software connection via said communication component to said business database.

43.   (Original) The computer system of claim 42 wherein said processing component comprises:

a processing unit; and

a bus coupled to said processing unit, said communication component, said display component and said input device component.

44.   (Original) The computer system of claim 43 wherein said processing component further comprises:

a random access memory coupled to said processing unit via said bus.

45.   (Original) The computer system of claim 44 wherein said processing component further comprises:

a mass memory system coupled to said processing unit via said bus.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said setting at least one property of said company object includes:

setting a server property of said company object to a server name containing said business database;

setting a company name property of said company object to the name of said business database;

setting a user name property of said company object to the name of a user;

setting a password property of said company object to a password of said user; and

setting a language property of said company object to a desired language of said user.

47.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 46 further comprising accessing said business database using business objects from said company object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business database.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said company object is instantiated in a data interface application programming interface implemented on the client system as a dynamic link library.

49.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 48 further comprising accessing said business database using business objects from said company object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business database.

50.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said setting at least one property of said company object includes:

setting a server property of said company object to a server name containing said business database;

setting a company name property of said company object to the name of said business database;

setting a user name property of said company object to the name of a user;

setting a password property of said company object to a desired password; and

setting a language property of said company object to a desired language.

51.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising accessing said business database using business objects from said company object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business

database.

52.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said

company object is instantiated in a data interface application programming interface to be

implemented on the client system as a dynamic link library.

53.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 52 further comprising

accessing said business database using business objects from said company object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business

database.

54-55. (Cancelled).

56.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 35 wherein said means for

setting at least one property of said company object includes:

means for setting a server property of said company object to a server name containing

said business database;

means for setting a company property of said company object to the name of said

business database;

means for setting a user name property of said company object to the name of a user;

means for setting a password property of said company object to a desired password; and

means for setting a language property of said company object to a desired language.

57.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 56 further comprising:

means for accessing said business database using business objects from said company

object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business

database.

58.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 35 wherein said means for

instantiating the company object instantiates the company object in a data interface application

programming interface implemented on the client system as a dynamic link library.

59.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 58 further comprising:

means for accessing said business database using business objects from said company

object,

wherein said business objects expose a plurality of methods for accessing said business

database.

60.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 42 wherein setting at least one

property of said company object includes:

setting a server property of said company object to a server name containing said

business database;

setting a company name property of said company object to the name said business

database;

setting a user name property of said company object to the name of a user;

setting a password property of said company object to a desired password; and

setting a language property of said company object to a desired language.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the company object is a highest

object in the hierarchy of objects used to access the business database,

all business objects used by the external program to access the business database exist as

predefined component object model objects on the client system, and

instances of the business objects are created on the client system via the company object.

62.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein a data interface of the company

object on the client system has a different structure than a data interface used by the business

database, the method further comprising:

accessing said business database using business objects from said company object.

63.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the company

object is a highest object in the hierarchy of objects used to access the business database,

all business objects used by the client system to access the business database exist as

predefined component object model objects on the client system, and

instances of the business objects are created on the client system via the company object.

64.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 63 wherein a data interface of the company object on the client system has a different structure than a data interface used by the business database, the executable instructions to further perform:

accessing said business database using business objects from said company object.

65.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the company object is a highest object in the hierarchy of objects used to access the business database,

all business objects used by the client system to access the business database exist as predefined component object model objects on the client system, and

instances of the business objects are created on the client system via the company object.

66.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 65 wherein a data interface of the company object on the client system has a different structure than a data interface used by the business database, the data processing system further comprising:

means for accessing said business database using business objects from said company object.

67.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 42, wherein the company object is a highest object in the hierarchy of objects used to access the business database,

all business objects used by the computer system to access the business database exist as predefined component object model objects on the computer system, and

instances of the business objects are created on the computer system via the company object.

68.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 67 wherein a data interface of the company object on the computer system has a different structure than a data interface used by the business database.